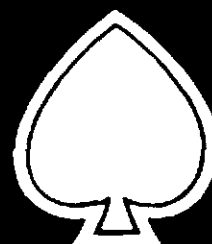




The
**INDIAN
BRIDGE**
World



VOLUME I

NUMBER

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THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

(The Official Organ of the South Indian Bridge Association)

QUARTERLY

Vol I	December 1948	No. 1
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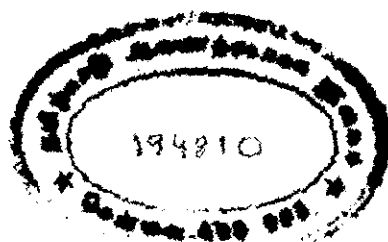
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To Contract Bridge Players In India

OUR Bridge activities are again in full swing. After seven years of severe paper restrictions and after a great effort, we are reviving the "Indian Bridge World" as a Quarterly from December 1948.

To our old members, contributors and readers, the "Indian Bridge World" needs no introduction. Besides retaining many of the old features a 'Pro et Contra' section has been added; an attractive cover design has been selected; and articles covering all interesting phases of this fascinating game of Contract Bridge can once again be read in the issues of this magazine.

It is well known that for any association, a magazine of its own, is indispensable. For it acts not only as a vital channel of communication between the association and its members and as a forum for settling disputed points, but serves as an agency for harnessing the rising enthusiasm and for moulding the growing talent in the Country for the organised improvement of the game. At this juncture,

when India is entering into her own in various branches of international sports, it is specially urged that the "Indian Bridge World" the only magazine of its kind in India, needs and deserves your prompt and whole hearted support.

It is quite evident that the magazine can be run efficiently, only if there is a large membership. The effectiveness of the magazine will be proportionate to the membership. It is therefore hoped that all Bridge lovers will become members of the South Indian Bridge Association.

As the official year of the S. I. B. A. is from the 1st of October to the 30th of September the next year, it will be convenient for every one to become members of the Association immediately, by paying the full subscription for the year 1948-9.

Rates of annual subscription are :—

Rs. 3/- and an entrance fee of Rs. 1/- per individual and Rs. 5/- and an entrance fee of Rs. 2/8/- per club.

Members will not only have the privilege of participating in all the open Tournaments held under the auspices of the Association but will be entitled to a free copy of the aforesaid

Quarterly magazine "The Indian Bridge World."

Applications for membership may be made in the form given in the last page.

Do You Carry A Lucky Mole?

By A. M. R. DAVIDAR

ARE you in the Championship Class in Contract? Then you might occasionally climb the victory stand in these pairs progressive competitions. But if further you have a lucky mole in any interesting part of your body, you are then bound to secure trophy after trophy, even as N. S. Shanker does at present. I confess, however, that I can't tell you where exactly Shanker carries his mole.

I had gone to Madras for the last Easter Holidays, when I found that I was entered for the pairs progressive competition at the M.U.C., where such competitions are nowadays inevitable in every long week end. We have, of course, progressed far from the days of the Sudder Gardens, where it had taken the most part of a night to get through a progressive event. We

have, however, yet to achieve considerable further progress. We started this tournament soon after 2-30 P.M., and, after an interval of half an hour for a good tiffin, finished by 8 P.M. Seeing that we had 15 tables and played 30 deals altogether, the average worked out to merely 6 deals an hour. That is definitely too leisurely. We may not want to copy the ruthless efficiency of the American Directors whose standard time is 8 deals per hour. Even making allowances for some humane touch, the characteristic of our country, we should be able to achieve conveniently an average of at least 7 to 7½ deals per hour.

And now for the deals themselves. Strangely enough, there was not one slam hand in any of the 30 deals. That does not

however, mean that there were no slams that were bid and made. In the following deal, deal No. 2,

```

      ♠ 9 8
      ♥ 8 7 5 4 3
      ♦ A 8 2
      ♣ 9 6 3

♠ 4 3      N      ♠ K Q J 10
♥ A K Q J 10 2 W E ♥ 9 6
♦ Q 7      S      ♦ K 6
♣ A J 7      ♣ K Q 8 4 2

      ♠ A 7 6 5 2
      ♥ —
      ♦ J 10 9 5 4 3
      ♣ 10, 5
  
```

as many as five East-West pairs bid the small slam in Hearts and as many as four of them, including the ultimate East-West winners, Mr. Gokuldoss and our new General Editor, Mr. Sundaresa Iyer, had made it too, though two Aces were missing! The ultimate North-South winners, Messrs. N.S. Shanker and Rangaswamy, also of the M.U.C., were the only pair to defeat the contract, through sound defence. The Diamond Ace was led by North, who had followed it up with a lead of Spades, after seeing the big-suit-directing card in Diamond Jack played by South. An inexplicable Diamond bid by Mr. C. T. Krishnaswami of the M.U.C. playing as West at our table, had made it impossible either for my nephew and partner, Lt. Col. A.D.J.

Victor, playing as North, to lead out the Diamond Ace or for me to return the Diamond, when I took the first trick with the Spades Ace, particularly since, after my partner's double, I had reasons to suspect a singleton Spade with him. Incidentally, the double enabled us to share a good bottom with our friends, Messrs. Srinivasa Mudaliar and T. M. Kasturi, of whom the latter had also indulged in the indiscretion of a double.

Another set of glittering cards was held by the East-West pairs in the very next deal, deal No. 3.

```

      ♠ J 9
      ♥ Q 9 7
      ♦ 10 9 8 6
      ♣ A 10 8 2

♠ A K 8 7      N      ♠ Q 2
♥ K 10 8 5 W E ♥ A J 6
♦ J      S      ♦ A K 7 4 3
♣ J 9 7 4      ♣ K Q 3

      ♠ 10 6 5 4 3
      ♥ 4 3 2
      ♦ Q 5 2
      ♣ 6 5
  
```

Four ambitious East-West pairs had climbed to the slam contract, one pair to six Spades—two pairs to six No-trumps and one pair to six Hearts. It was just possible to achieve the contract in No-trumps or Hearts, if North was induced to part with his Club Ace at an early stage and the Hearts queen was

afterwards properly finessed. But none of the ambitious bidders, succeeded in making the contract. Incidentally, Shanker's lucky mole was in play, his opponents having contracted for the unmakeable slam contract in Spades, to go 2 down. Where a slam even in No-trumps was possible, a non-vulnerable "psychic" over-call of one Spade by me had given my partner another opportunity to indulge in his favourite pastime of a double of a mere game contract of 3 No-trumps. That was, of course, redoubled and made with an over-trick by Messrs. Damodara Mudaliar and Pannikar of the M.U.C. This time we hit a clean bottom, without any question of sharing the glory with anyone else.

The following deal, deal No. 27,

♠ J 4 2			
♥ J 9 7			
♦ 10 9 8			
♣ J 10 6 2			
♠ 10 9 8	N	♠ A K 7 5	
♥ K 5 3	W	♥ 10	
♦ 5 4 2		♦ A K Q J 3	
♣ A 8 7 5	S	♣ K Q 9	
♠ Q 6 3			
♥ A Q 8 6 4 2			
♦ 7 6			
♣ 4 3			

was another that lured three East-West pairs to destruction. These pairs had all reached

the practically unmakeable bid of six Diamonds, to go one down. The final contract in all these cases was mostly due to the optimistic bidding of the Wests, who had, with a bare Ace and King, made considerable strength—showing bids. They had perhaps not realised that with a jubilant partner, opening with a suit bid of two, they should have been extra careful not to show any great strength, merely because they held an Ace and a King, apart from eleven other ragged cards. The ultimate East-West runners up, Messrs. K. R. Sundaram and Devarajan of the M.U.C. had laid the foundations for their success by just going up to 5, and stopping there, in all these 3 deals.

The only deal in which the North-South players could have thought of a slam was deal No. 25.

♠ 10 9 8			
♥ K 7			
♦ 10 8 6 5 2			
♣ Q J 2			
♠ A K 6 3 2	N	♠ Q J 7 5	
♥ 10 9 6 5	W	♥ 4	
♦ 10 3		♦ K Q J 7	
♣ 7 3	S	♣ 9 6 5 4	
♠ 4			
♥ A Q J 8 3 2			
♦ A 4			
♣ A K 10 8			

Unfortunately, myself and my

partner were the only pair to think of this ambitious contract. Playing the Acol two-Club system, so far as opening two in a suit is concerned, it had been quite easy for me, as South, to start the bidding with two Hearts. My partner had quite properly responded with a negative two No-trumps. But when I showed my alternative suit by bidding three Clubs, he had made the strength-showing response of three No-trumps. Having already shown a fairly strong hand with about eight playing tricks, I had, without even bidding four Hearts, so as to try for a game either at four Hearts or at five Clubs, been content with making a modest bid of four Clubs. My partner, who was not even bound to keep this bid alive, had, however, not merely preferred Hearts but made a jump bid of five Hearts, indicating the possession of at least over three and nearly four playing tricks. A six Hearts bid by me was, in the circumstances, an inevitable one. It was as inevitable that we should go one down, particularly since West, who had doubled the contract, had immediately taken his Spade trick. If he had not done so and if he had, in particular, led one of his doubleton

Diamonds, it might have been just possible to make the contract by taking the second trick in Diamonds, and then sneaking a trick for the seven of Hearts and then playing the King of Hearts, before ruffing the third Diamond with an honour card and pulling out the remaining trumps. Seeing that there were two more entries in the Dummy in Clubs, the fifth Diamond could have been established for a discard of Spades. Anyway, we were the only North-South pair to attempt the slam and achieve a minus score on this deal. The necessary consequence was that we netted another unchallenged bottom.

These optimistic bids searching for slams, where there was none may well be deemed to indicate that few clean games would be lost. Strangely enough, that was not so. There were quite a number of deals in which most pairs had failed to bid up to games that were cold. Even in the aforementioned deal, deal No. 27, where some East-West pairs had climbed to a slam contract, there were 3 East-West pairs who looking at their cards through dark glasses of pessimism, had stopped either at 2 Spades or at 3 Diamonds!

Again in deal No. 16, for instance,

♠ A 8 3			
♥ Q 10 5			
♦ 10 9 3 2			
♣ K 10 5			
♠ J 9 7	N	♠ 2	
♥ J 6 2	W	♥ A 8 4 3	
♦ 6 4	E	♦ A Q J 8 5	
♣ A 8 4 3 2	S	♣ J 9 6	
		♠ K Q 10 6 5 4	
		♥ K 9 7	
		♦ K 7	
		♣ Q 7	

there was a game in Spades for the North-South pairs. But quite a large number of pairs had stopped at three Spades and even a larger number had stopped at two Spades. Messrs. T. S. Duraiswami and Thiruvankadam of Thyagaraganagar Social Club were so suspicious of their cards that they had stopped at one Spade, though they, like the others, had duly made four Spades. Believe it or not, only three North-South pairs, myself and my partner, Dr. Suryanarayanan and Narasimhachari of the M.U.C. and Messrs. S. K. Subramaniam and Thirunarayanan of the M.C.O.P., had reached game on this hand. It is a sad reflection on the "defensive" bidding of our players that as many as 12 North-South pairs had failed to

reach a game on this hand, merely because the bidding had been opened by East. Many players do not yet realise that quite often "defensive" bidding has to assume the "offensive". I have, however, no reason to grouse on this account, since, occasionally opening an "nothing", I have found the opponents invariably stopping short of game, though it is available to them just wrapped up in ice.

Again in the following deal, deal No. 18,

♠ A 9 5 4 3			
♥ 10 9			
♦ 10 2			
♣ 10 9 8 3			
♠ K 8 7	N	♠ Q 6	
♥ K J 7 6	W	♥ Q 8 5 2	
♦ K Q 7 6 4	E	♦ J 9 8 5	
♣ Q	S	♣ 5 4 2	
		♠ J 10 2	
		♥ A 4 3	
		♦ A 3	
		♣ A K J 7 6	

there is a clean game in Spades for the North-South pairs, many of whom had ultimately made five Spades. But, in spite of South having opened the bidding with as much as four plus tricks, the bidding was so diluted with pessimism that only one pair, Messrs. Raju Mudaliyar and Numberumaliah of the

M.U.C., the ultimate North-South runners-up, had bid up to game in 4 Spades. Most Souths had developed cold feet merely on account of the persistent bidding of East-West in Diamonds on distributional strength, in spite of, in some cases, North bidding Spades and supporting Clubs. A mistaken attempt on the part of Messrs. Chandrasekaran and Gopalsamy of the T.N.S.C. to secure a game in No-trumps had merely resulted in giving a push-up to Messrs. K.R. Sundaram and C. Deva-
rajan.

The weak-kneed bidding of the competitors generally was most clearly demonstrated in the following deal, deal No. 21.

♠ J 10 2			
♥ 10 7 3			
♦ Q 10 3			
♣ 10 7 5 3			
♠ Q 3	N	♠ 7 6	
♥ 8 6	W	♥ K Q J 5 4	
♦ A 9 8 6 4 2	E	♦ K J 5	
♣ A K 9	S	♣ 8 6 2	
		♠ A K 9 8 5 4	
		♥ A 9 2	
		♦ 7	
		♣ Q 7 4	

There is a clean game in this deal for the East-West pairs in 4 Hearts, considering that the natural finesse for the missing Diamond queen has to be taken

against North, particularly since all Souths had indicated a singleton Diamond by persistently bidding and rebidding Spades over the Diamond calls. But not one single East-West pair had reached the game on this hand. They had been generally satisfied with merely bidding and making a part-score in Diamonds or Hearts. Here again the great diffidence of the East-West pairs was obviously due to South having opened the bidding. In spite of North-South being vulnerable, only 2 Wests, Messrs. C. T. Krishnaswami of the M. U. C., and Seshachalam of the S.I.V.A., had properly doubled South's opening bid of 1 Spade. All the other Wests were complacently content with making the comparatively weak over-call of 2 Diamonds over South's one Spade and the as weak call of 3 Diamonds over partner's 2 Hearts. Only three pairs, including our opponents, Messrs. T. V. Subramaniam and J. Subbuisamy of the M.U.C., had even reached three Hearts to make four thus incidentally giving us a share in another bottom. Quite obviously, the distributional strength of the hands was not properly assessed or sufficiently appreciated.

That was even more clearly the case in the following deal, deal No. 4.

♠ J 8 5 2
♥ J 8 6
♦ —
♣ K 6 4 3 2

♠ 4 3 N ♠ 10 6
♥ A W ♥ K Q 3
♦ A 10 9 7 4 S ♦ Q J 8 6 5
♣ A Q J 8 5 ♣ 10 9 7

♠ A K Q 9
♥ 10 9 7 5 4 2
♦ K 3 2
♣ —

There is a game for the North-South pairs in four Hearts or in four Spades. But apart from some East-West's having bid up to five Clubs or five Diamonds, most of the North-South pairs had dropped the bidding at the three level. Myself and my partner were again one of the only two pairs to secure and make the contract at four Hearts the other pair being Messrs. S.K. Subramaniam and Thirunaryanan of the M.C.O.P.

This last deal, among others, would show that our competitive or sacrificial bidding has now fallen to low levels. I remember that sometime ago sacrificial bidding was the rage. It appears to have gone out of fashion at present. In the last deal, for instance, the East-West pairs

could well have made a sacrificial bid of five Diamonds to go down one or at the most two, to save the vulnerable game available to the North-South pairs. But the two game bids mentioned in the last para were allowed to stand, though one other game bid of four Spades by Messrs. Raju Mudaliar and Namberumaliah was properly over-called by five Diamonds by Messrs. T. V. Subramaniam and Subbusamy.

The following deal, Deal No. 25, would even more demonstrably indicate our present weakness in sacrificial bidding.

♠ 10 9 8
♥ K 7
♦ 10 8 6 5 2
♣ Q J 2

♠ A K 6 3 2 N ♠ Q J 7 5
♥ 10 9 6 5 W ♥ 4
♦ 10 3 S ♦ K Q J 7
♣ 7 3 ♣ 9 6 5 4

♠ 4
♥ A Q J 8 3 2
♦ A 4
♣ A K 10 8

As many as 9 North-South pairs had been allowed to bid four Hearts to make five. But a four Spade bid by East-West would result in being only one down. Only four East-West pairs had, however, made this profitable sacrifice. Strangely enough

most East-West pairs had not even entered the bidding at any stage

In the same way, the following deal, deal No. 10, would offer a good sacrifice bid to the East-West pairs.

♠ K 10 8 2
♥ A 3
♦ K J 10 7 6 2
♣ 9

♠ 5 4 N ♠ 9 6
♥ K J 10 6 W ♥ Q 9 8 7
♦ 9 8 5 S ♦ A
♠ A J 10 5 ♣ K 7 6 4 3 2

♠ A Q J 7 3
♥ 5 4 2
♦ Q 4 3
♣ Q 8

The East-West pairs would only be one down in five Clubs or five Hearts. But a majority of the North-South pairs had been allowed to conveniently bid and make a vulnerable game at four Spades. Only two East-West pairs, viz. Messrs. Siromani and Ellayya and Sambasiva Iyer and S. R. Subramaniam, had attempted the profitable sacrifice at 5 Clubs. Here again, it is remarkable that most East-West pairs had not entered the bidding at all.

Let me finish with the most freakish deal in the tournament, deal No. 5.

♠ 10 9 8
♥ J 8 5 4
♦ —
♣ A K Q J 7 3

♠ A K J 4 3 N ♠ 7 2
♥ 2 W ♥ A K Q J 7 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 S ♦ J 5 4
♣ 6 5 4 ♣ 10 9

♠ Q 6 5
♥ 10 9 8
♦ A K Q 6 3 2
♣ 2

I need hardly say that there was a good deal of competitive bidding on this deal, the competition being between the partners as well as with the opponents. The result was that the ultimate contracts were purchased at dizzy heights, the various declarers going down by as many as three to five tricks. The North-South winning pair, Messrs. Shanker and Rangaswamy had bid a modest three Diamonds to go down four and give a good score to the East-West winners, Messrs. Gokuldoss and Sundaresa Iyer who fully deserved the score for the best defence in this deal. Myself and my partner were the only pair to bid and make a game contract. That was arrived at in a sweet and simple way by my partner opening with three Clubs and my closing the bidding with three No-trumps. That was just

one round of bidding as against 4 to 5 rounds in most other tables. The only other pair, our mayor Dr. U. Krishna Rao and Mr. Sriramulu, to attempt the three No-trumps contract was destined to go down badly, since with South opening 1 Diamond, both West and East had been allowed to bid their respective Spade and Heart suits. But with West

leading his fourth best Spade at our table, I had ten tricks on ice. No, I can assure you that I do not carry any lucky mole. No, we would not have ended up a miserable fourth, if I carried even the most measly mole, seeing that the number of tops or near-tops that we secured was far more than that of any other pair.

Trump Management

By M. S. KRISHNASWAMY

Mr. P. is a leading criminal lawyer, who by his thorough analysis of the evidence and probabilities, has assisted many a criminal to escape. But at the Bridge table, we could never make him ponder on the probabilities or analyse the pros and cons of any particular line of play. Playing a trump contract, we could never make him defer playing trumps or make him see the difference between busy and idle trumps. A favourite saying of his is 'many a child walketh the streets of London because his father failed to pull out adverse trumps at once'. P is not an exception but only a type.

The problem of trump management either as declarer or as defender is an important one. The most difficult question always is for the declarer "when shall I draw trumps?"

The usual practice, of Mr. P. and people of his way of thinking is to play trumps immediately they get into the lead, the only object being to pull out all adverse trumps, "fangs" as they would call them and so make things safe. Such a procedure may in many cases defeat the object they have in view viz., safety. Otherwise good hands have been murdered by haste in playing out trumps. Take the following deal for instance.

DECEMBER, 1948

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♠ Q 7 5
♥ 8 6 3
♦ 7 4
♣ K Q J 6 2

♠ J N ♠ 10 8 4
♥ K 9 7 2 W E ♥ 10 4
♦ A K J 8 5 2 S ♦ Q 10 9 6
♣ 8 3 ♣ A 9 7

♠ A K 9 6 3 2
♥ A Q 5
♦ 3
♣ 10 5 4

N-S have reached a contract of four Spades with South as declarer. On the combined honour valuation and general distribution, it is a safe enough contract, one which declarer ought to be able to make under normal circumstances. West leads the Diamond King and follows it up with the Ace which the declarer has to ruff. The choice is now with South of planning his further play. A hasty play of three rounds of trumps to pull out the adverse trumps would leave the declarer with the following distribution:

♠ —
♥ 8 6 3
♦ —
♣ K Q J 6 2

♠ — ♠ —
♥ K 9 7 2 ♥ J 10 4
♦ J 8 ♦ Q 10
♣ 8 3 ♣ A 9 7

♠ 9 6
♥ A Q 5
♦ —
♣ 10 5 4

Now, declarer is on an all out effort to establish Dummy's Clubs. Wise Mr. East refuses however to oblige by taking his Ace during the first or second round of Clubs and the declarer finds himself with no chance of cashing his long clubs which would certainly become established by playing out another round. He therefore shifts to the heart and finesses the heart Queen to find that it loses to West's King. The damage is now beyond repair and declarer goes one down with two losing hearts, one losing diamond and one losing club. A little more circumspection in the beginning would have helped Mr. P. to bring home the bacon.

His counterpart playing the same deal at Table No. 2, planned his play even at the outset. He saw that if dummy's long clubs could be established, a risky finesse in Heart would not be necessary as two long clubs would be available for discarding the two losing Hearts. He also saw that, in order to take advantage of the established club suit, he would require an entry in the dummy and that on the distribution the only entry available was the Queen of

trumps. He, after ruffing the second diamond, played his Ace and King of spades leaving the Queen in the dummy and began playing his clubs and did establish them. No matter what East or West played, the contract was safe; in fact he made five spades. Culbertson defines a busy trump, as one which may be needed now or later, as a stopper, entry, guard or ruffier and the other trumps as idle. In the case under illustration the Queen of spades in the dummy is a busy trump to be used as entry after declarer's suit establishment play is completed. The two other trumps in the dummy do not serve any purpose as stoppers or entries or ruffiers. They are idle and may be immediately drawn, incidentally pulling out most of the adverse trumps.

It is also necessary to remember that if declarer plans to discard losers on established long cards the time factor is important. He must have enough trumps to stop the opponents while the cards are being established and then be able also to draw trumps before cashing the long suit. In the following instance:

		♠ A K Q	
		♥ Q J 10 9	
		♦ A 5 3	
		♣ J 6 5	
♠ 9 2	N	♠ J 4 3	
♥ A K 7 6 5 2	W E	♥ 8 4 3	
♦ Q J	S	♦ 10 9 8 2	
♣ K 10 9		♣ Q 4 3	
		♠ 10 8 7 6 5	
		♥ —	
		♦ K 7 6 4	
		♣ A 7 6 4	

N. S. have reached a contract of four spades.

West leads the diamond Queen. Declarer has to plan his play. He sees that if two Tricks could be established in Hearts, they together with five tricks in spades, two in diamonds and one in clubs would ensure the contract. With that object Ace of diamonds is taken in the dummy and Heart Queen is led and allowed to be taken, South discarding a club. A second diamond lead is taken by the King by the declarer. A trump lead puts him in dummy for a second lead of hearts. Another club is discarded from the hand. Two high hearts are now established. No matter what west leads now, the contract is safe. The time factor is important and the trumps in the dummy are busy ones needed as entries to the dummy. Mr. P. would have immediately drawn trumps and found himself

at the end with just 9 tricks; one short of the contract-saying "sorry partner; But one down is no down". Just the time to tell P. "Many a man walketh the streets of London because his father played out trumps all

too quickly".

Examples of more busy trumps where they are needed as ruffiers could not be included due to limitations of space; they have to be deferred for a later occasion

'The distribution & hand pattern'

By 'BRIDGE FAN'

More often than not, it is the distribution and hand pattern, rather than the wealth of honour tricks in the combined hands, that count for the success of high-level slam contracts. The following hand is illustrative of this proposition: North-South were pushed to a Grand slam bid, which they reached more as a sacrifice, without knowing that the "Bada slam" was a *sitter*.

		♠ —	
		♥ K 10 8 7 6 4 2	
		♦ 10 8 7 6 5 3	
		♣ —	
♠ 10 9 3	N	♠ A K Q J 7 6	
♥ J	W E	♥ Q	
♦ J 9 4	S	♦ A K Q 2	
♣ K Q 10 9 7 5		♣ A 2	
		♠ 8 5 4 2	
		♥ A 9 5 3	
		♦ —	
		♣ J 8 6 4 3	

The above deal was played in a tournament. I was east and, as dealer, proudly opened two spades. South passed, and my partner bid three Clubs (a correct bid, though tinged with optimism). North, a bold and astute player and a good friend of mine, jumped to four Hearts (as a sacrifice bid). I then bid four no trumps, a slam try seeking to know my partner's possible holding in Hearts-Ace or void. South, in his turn, hesitated, pondered over his cards, and then mildly bid five Hearts. After a pass by west and north, I thought I was winding up the auction by bidding six Spades, when, to my surprise, North ventured a bid of seven Hearts. I promptly doubled, taking care to make a sympathetic side remark to my friend that he

was heading for a costly sacrifice, as both sides were vulnerable. I confidently played out my Diamond Ace, but had a shock when the dummy was spread. I had a greater shock when I found that North was void in both spades and clubs. Of course, it was child's play for North to gather all the thirteen tricks, pickling all my Aces and Kings (which had to seek asylum in the already over-full famous Professor's Jar). North utilised all the four trumps in the dummy to ruff out and ultimately establish two Diamonds in the hand taking care to enter his hand twice by ruffing clubs and twice by ruffing Spades. My discomfiture at the result can better be imagined than described. Post-mortem criticism revealed that a trump lead would have defeated the contract. But I would not accept or concede—and no expert ever accepts he is wrong—that a trump was the proper lead, and I persisted in maintaining that even the Culbertson pair would have led the Ace in the unbid short suit. However, I heartily congratulated my friend for his enterprising bid, which secured him a definite top. No other North-South pair had risked a seven Hearts bid, as they were scared by the

vulnerability and the penalty involved. The vital feature of the hand was the void in Diamonds in the South hand, with sufficient trumps for ruffing; and there was no possibility of North knowing it by any means (except by a peep or a message underneath the table), especially as I had as East opened a forcing two bid, thereby advertising a wealth of honor tricks to frighten and caution even the most adventurous players. But the lesson I learnt from this unforgettable deal was the marvellous effect of distribution and hand pattern with voids, in high-level contracts. Just imagine, the combined holding of honour tricks in both the hands is not the prescribed eight honours but only one and a half. I am not, however, offering the above deal as a typical example of a grand slam bid. I am aware of the grave danger to North hand, if South happened to pick up a void in Hearts, in which case North would have been penalised heavily even for a four Hearts bid. But the freakish deal reveals the potentialities of distribution and the utility value of a void in the dummy in trump contracts (A void in declarer's hand is, however, a sign of weakness generally).

Yet another deal, which I had the misfortune to play, amplifies my theory that distribution, and not honour tricks, is the deciding factor in most successful contracts. That deal was again played in a tournament and that was my first debut in the tournament arena. But I was then thorough with the "Gold Book" and had crammed by heart its several chapters. This was the deal:—

♠ A Q 10 6 4		♥ 7 4		♦ 10		♣ K Q 10 4 2	
♠ 7 5		N	♠ K J 9 2				
♦ Q 10 9 8 5		W	♥ J				
♦ 8 6 3			♦ Q J 9 7				
♣ 9 6 3		S	♣ J 8 7 5				
♠ 8 3		♥ A K 6 3 2		♦ A K 5 4 2		♣ A	

I sat South. My partner as North, and dealer, opened a Spade, and East passed. I carefully counted my hand and noted with satisfaction the five honours. I at once recalled and refreshed myself about the chapter on slams. Counting seven and half to eight honours in the combined hands, I safely concluded that I was in the slam zone, the only problem confronting me being as to whether I was in the Grand or the lesser-

part of the Slam zone. I gave a jump bid of three Hearts, and my partner responded four Clubs. Without realising the misfit, I went forward merrily, bidding four Diamonds. My partner bid four spades. Then I assumed the slam demeanour (you can never fail to note the distinctive slam air of players making asking bids or other slam invitation bids) and bid four no trumps. My partner appeared to be in difficulties (quite natural, I thought, since he has not yet known about my five honours) and meekly responded with five spades, almost indicating it as a closing bid, with a frown in his face. But I confidently and assuringly bid six no trumps, looking around for approbation from Kibitzers. East said "six no trumps double". I guessed it was only the customary "Oh double" indulged in by novices (some players have also the habit of doubling game and slam contracts as a matter of course on the off-chance of getting the contract set) and I promptly re-doubled with a contemptuous look at the opponent who dared to double. I did not also fail to remark to my partner "seven lost, Partner—but thanks to East for the double" But the

result is patent. The Score-sheet revealed a circular match point to me, with none else to share the honours. But I must mention that I planned my play according to the lessons taught by Cowperthwaite and my play of the deal was strictly on the model of Red Book on Play. West handicapped me by leading Spades seven. Applying the rule of eleven, I directed a "leaf" to be put in the dummy, but East won with his nine. East then played Diamond Queen, which I ducked, as I ought to. East continued with Diamond Jack, which I took with my Ace. Thereafter, I had to time my play. I played the Ace of Clubs, followed by the Ace and King of Hearts (noting with a smile the void by East for the second Heart). Then I struck out the King of Diamonds. The stripping process thus over, I threw East in with a lead of Diamonds.

I made 9 tricks in all. The result was three down redoubled, vulnerable. In all other tables, even for three no trumps North-South had gone one down as none had attempted my superior throw-in technique. I vigorously started canvassing for a change in the match point scoring, and for awarding separate score, for bidding as well as play. I was only referred to America by the tournament Director, who, however, appreciated my play. But the deal was an eye-opener to me. It is not honour tricks alone that count for success. You should be careful of misfits and proceed cautiously when you lack support for your partner's suits. In these cases, you should try to secure the cheapest game contract in no trumps and not be allured by Aces and Kings and "kite fly" for ambitious slams.

The New Laws of Contract Bridge

The Committee representing the United States, Great Britain and the European Bridge league have issued a revised code governing contract Bridge, superseding

all previous codes. The new laws which came into force on the first of October have virtually modified every well known point of bridge-law so

much so that they "relegate to the scrapheap what the casual bridgeplayer knows about the rules."

We have not yet got the copy of the laws before us and we are indebted to an article by Geoffrey Mott Smith in the September issue of the American Bridge World for the following account. According to him, the alterations are not capricious but are simply the acceptance of changes that have long been overdue. It need hardly be said that every bridge player should go through the revised rules thoroughly and that the present article can at best serve as an introduction.

There are alterations in arrangement and in presentation. There is a new part III entitled "General laws relating to irregularities" consolidating certain provisions previously reduplicated in each period. This is a part which it is vital for every tournament director to know and to master.

No change has been made in the scoring. The characteristic changes consist in the reduction of penalties in respect of the most frequent irregularities on the table. The framers have recognised that most of the irregularities are due to inadvertence or carelessness rather than

to wilful intent-and that therefore the penalties of the old law gave an indemnity which was excessive and out of proportion to the wrong. Now to the actual changes.

If a player exposes (a) a Jack or higher card during the auction or (b) more than one card or (c) if he leads any card prematurely, his partner is barred from entering the auction for one round. Such cards remain penalty cards if the owner becomes a defender. Exposure of a lower card not prematurely led does not entail any penalty.

According to the old laws, the partner was barred during the whole auction. Declarer had the option, which now has been eliminated, of calling the opening lead.

Declarer no longer enjoys the option of calling a lead in the case of a penalty card that is Jack or higher.

If a defender leads out of turn instead of his partner declarer has the option of treating the incorrect lead as a penalty card or forbidding the lead of that suit by the other defender. The card led by a defender out of turn in the declarer's turn becomes a penalty card (there is no option).

Under the old rule the declarer had the right to call for a lead in any suit that he wanted. There is obviously no practical distinction between an exposed card and a card incorrectly led and the undue penalty of the old laws has therefore been eliminated.

An insufficient bidder must substitute one of the following calls.

(a) the lowest possible overcall in the same suit; there is no penalty.

(b) Any other bid; his partner is barred from participating throughout the rest of the auction.

(c) A pass; his partner is barred for the rest of the auction and if an opponent becomes the declarer he may call or forbid the opening lead of a specified suit.

Under the old laws the option of the pass was only given when the offender would otherwise have to bid seven. It was obligatory on the offender to make some sufficient bid and this compulsion was productive, even at lower levels, of fearful catastrophies. The option of the pass now given, would therefore in such cases, be of great benefit to the insufficient bidder, in spite of the penalty involved.

The definition of 'revoke' has been limited to "a failure to follow suit."

A revoke must be corrected, if noticed before it become established. A defender's revoke card becomes a penalty card. The former option of calling the highest or lowest of the correct suit from the revoking hand has been eliminated. The following changes have been made in the interests of simplicity:—

Either opponent may draw attention to an irregularity and may select and enforce the appropriate penalty. The elaborate provisions regarding the opponent authorised to claim the penalty have been abrogated.

A defender merely by drawing attention to a contractor's lead out of turn is deemed to have made a demand for its correction. This is pointed out by Mottsmith as an exception to the general rule that drawing attention to an alleged irregularity does not preclude allowing it to stand as regular. If the defender wishes to accept an adverse lead out of turn, he should say nothing and either play to the trick or wait for his partner to do so.

There is, rarely, such a thing as a voluntary condonement. The term condonement and the

provisions relating thereto have been entirely deleted. An irregular play or call can always be accepted by the left hand opponent by his own play or call without any comment.

Dealing with passage of illegal information, the broad principle is laid down in Sec. (2) of the new code that either opponent may, upon one subsequent trick, require the offending side to retract a lead or play that is responsive to, i.e. consequent on the information given illegally.

The rights of the dummy have been enlarged. Formerly the dummy was prohibited from warning declarer when he is about to lead from the wrong hand. This rule no longer holds. Dummy can now warn partner

against any irregularity he sees any player about to commit.

With regard to a call out of turn, there is a distinction made between a pass by a player in the turn of his right hand opponent or before the first bid of the auction, and other calls out of turn. In the former case the offender must pass at his first proper turn. In the latter his partner is barred throughout the auction. The 1943 code with a view to mitigate the penalty that was very severe under the 1935 code made elaborate distinctions, but the present code has in this one instance imposed the severe penalty in the interests of simplicity.

All that Glitters is not Gold

By ISOBEL COOREY

IT all happened a fortnight ago. We had a special session at the Club that Sunday afternoon. We were a select company. We had naturally started quite happily. But by the time the session was over, my nerves were all gone. I

was just a miserable nerve-shattered wreck.

The omens, however, were all in my favour, when we started. I cut the Spade Ace and got a sound partner, who cut the Heart Ace. The very first hand that I dealt myself was a

hand in a million. It was a dream-hand. I held,

♠ A, K, Q, J, 10, 9
♥ A,
♦ A, K, Q, J, 9, 8
♣ —

Sitting South, I had naturally opened the bidding with two Spades. I was surprised to hear West make a game-forcing call of three Spades. I was more pleasantly surprised when I heard North make a positive bid of four Spades. I was, of course, shocked to hear East make a forcing void-showing call of five Spades. But with the cards that I could see in my hand, the bidding of the opponents gave me no worries, particularly since my partner had given me a free raise. A seven Spade bid by me was, therefore, an automatic one. When West doubled and North redoubled, I was in clover.

I could, therefore, hardly believe my eyes when West still seemed quite happy. I could hardly believe my ears, when he mildly enquired if there could be any further redouble. Without seeming too anxious to do so, I told him, quite unscrupulously, that it was perhaps open to all the four players to agree to waive the rules on any point. Curiously enough, he and his partner as also my partner were all willing,

if not anxious, to fall into line. We, therefore, agreed that there must be no limit to the redoubling. Hardly had the agreement been reached when West redoubled. North re, re, redoubled. Afterwards, West and myself went on continuing the good work for about 7 or 8 rounds. Meanwhile, not being able to count correctly the number of re's every time, we simplified matters by "double again", "doubles again." Every one of these reiterated doubles was made with considerable vocal force and yet more vocal force. By the time the 7 or 8 further rounds were over, both myself and West were feeling fairly exhausted. Since we were further playing for Rs. 3 per hundred, the hand had already come to yield a fortune to the winners. By mutual consent, we stopped.

And then with West leading out the Hearts King my partner laid down his hand, which was

♠ K, J, 9, 8
♥ —
♦ K, 10
♣ A, K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8

For a moment, I was jubilant. But immediately afterwards, something cold and icy started creeping up my spine. I could not account for ♠ K, J, 9 and ♦ K, which were all already in

my own hand. But I was not going to give-in very easily. There was a possibility of the opponents overlooking these duplicate cards. With apparent complacence, which merely covered up a good deal of nervous apprehension, I ruffed the Hearts King with Dummy's eight by way of absolute security, though it was hardly possible that West held 12 Hearts. When I played the Heart Ace from my hand, however, West pounced on it and held it up, looking at me as if I had been caught red-handed with some stolen property. He then took out an Heart-Ace from his own hand to make out that I could not have a card that he was already holding.

There was, of course, something radically wrong. With a good deal of reluctance, which appeared to be shared by West also, we had all then to lay down our cards. This was the entire deal :—

♠ A Q 10	♠ K, J, 9, 8
♥ A K Q J	♥ —
♦ A J 10	♦ K, 10
♣ —	♣ A, K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8
	♠ K Q J 9 10
	♥ —
	♦ K Q J
	♣ —
	♠ K Q J 10 9
	♥ A
	♦ A K Q J 9 8
	♣ —

With a shock, I realised that all the big cards in the pack were duplicated. Everyone of us was feeling stunned. The problem, however, soon yielded a simple solution. Some members had been playing French Rummy with two packs of the same colour and the "boys" had afterwards put the bigger cards in one pack and the smaller cards in another. I felt that I was cheated out of a fortune. Feeling that West was the principal sinner, in doing me out of my fortune, I was looking daggers at him. But he seemed to have the same feeling about me and giving back look for look. By the time the new packs had been secured and the next hand dealt, my nerves were badly shattered.

But more was to come. The hand that I held two deals afterwards was again a beautiful one. It was again a dream-hand.

♠ A, K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8
♥ —
♦ K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8
♣ —

Instinctively, I verified the second pack to satisfy myself that there was no mistake. After opening two Spades and bidding three Diamonds, both of which elicited negative responses

from my partner, I had jumped to six Spades, which, on my hand should be quite cold. I had naturally redoubled West's double. But I had little hope of getting back the fortune that had eluded me in the first deal.

I was, therefore, both surprised and delighted when West again enquired if the agreement in respect of the first deal was to hold good throughout the session. I could barely keep back my delight and my joy from my face, when I told him with an apparent indifference that, once an agreement had been entered into, it should be effective for the entire session. Here again, the "double again" and the "double again" went on for 7 or 8 rounds, before we stopped by mutual consent.

Even when West led out the Heart Ace I was quite happy. I ruffed with my Spade eight and led out my Spade Ace. It was then that I realised with a shock that all the remaining Spades were bunched in West's hand. I also saw that I could get no help whatever from the Dummy. But even then I could hardly think of anything like a debacle. I pulled out four of West's trumps and then led out the Diamond King. I had still some hopes that I could somehow get back

a Diamond lead so as to pull out the remaining two trumps in West's hand. But West jumped on the Diamond King with his Ace and led out the Heart-King. I had to ruff that and then I was helpless. I had then only one Trump in my hand, while West had still two. I thought and thought and did my best. And yet all the tricks that I could get were only 7 for the 7 top cards in trumps, going down 5. This was West's hand:—

♠ 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2

♥ A, K, Q

♦ A

♣ A, K, 6 (Q being with East)

I had held a dream-hand that proved to be a night-mare hand. I had lost a fortune on a hand that appeared quite unbeatable. My despair and my bitterness were not minimised by my partner's insinuation that one should not be led away by appearances and that it was the deceptive hands, which were not properly analysed, that led to debacles. I was feeling pretty desperate.

My chance, or what I thought was my chance, came a few deals later, after myself and my partner had secured a game. I was again the dealer and had dealt out the prettiest hand that I could think of to myself.

♠ A, K, Q, J

♥ A, K, Q

♦ A, K, Q

♣ K, J, 9

I opened the bidding with a re-sounding four No-trumps. West, who was not vulnerable, had over-called with five Diamonds. Even after my partner passed, I had still hopes of a small slam or at least a game, and rubber, and so called five No-trumps. West now bid six Clubs, which was left in both by North and by East. That was the limit, I thought and shouted out a double. West passed and North passed. But East redoubled. I doubled again. But I didn't get any further double from my opponents. My deliberately provoking remark that East-West were in for a heavy punishment was resented by West, the villain of the piece, who said that there's many a slip between the cup and the lip. I then dared him to take any bet against his making the contract. He said that he was amenable to accepting any reasonable odds. With a buoyant optimism, that over-rode all my native Scottish caution, I told him that I would take a ten-to-one odds against his making it. When he offered a mere one-point bet, or Rs. 3 against Rs. 30

my sneer had provoked him into taking a ten-point bet or Rs. 30/- against Rs. 300/-. I was not satisfied. I had afterwards provoked his partner, East also to take a similar bet. I was thereafter quite jubilant.

My partner led out the three of Spades and the Dummy, East, laid down his cards.

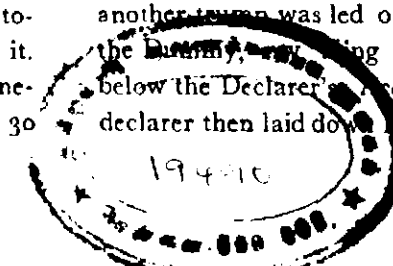
♠ 10, 9, 7, 5

♥ J, 8, 7, 6

♦ —

♣ 7, 6, 4, 3, 2

I had complacently played the Jack of Spades, which was, however, ruffed by the declarer. West. The latter then led out the Diamond three, which was ruffed by East, my Queen going under. I played the Club Nine when the trump was led out from the Dummy and this was covered by West with ten. He had thereafter led another Diamond to be ruffed by East. Another trump was led out from the Dummy, my Jack falling to the declarer's Queen. The declarer then led out still another Diamond, which was ruffed by Dummy, thus establishing the Diamond-suit in his hands. Still another trump was led out from the Dummy, my King falling below the Declarer's Ace. The declarer then laid down his hand



claiming an over-trick. This was the entire deal :—

♠ —	♠ 10 9 7 5
♥ —	♥ J 8 7 6
♦ J 9 8 7 6 5	W E ♦ —
♣ A Q 10 8 5	S ♣ 7 6 4 3 2
♠ A K Q J	
♥ A K Q	
♦ A K Q	
♣ K J 9	

I was literally ruined. All my Bridge earnings for years together were gone. The excitement caused by the beautiful hands that I held, combined with the shocks of the dis-illuminating results of these hands, have completely shattered my nerves. I am still feeling like a wreck.

But those hands, however, give me a right to preach a

homily. We might play Bridge for years together. But we still have a lot to learn. One should never be carried away by even the most glittering array of cards. They may yield a lot of money. Or, on the other hand they may ruin one, even as they ruined me. The strength of a hand does not really depend on the cards that one holds. It really depends on the relationship of these cards to the cards in the other three hands. I would much rather hold a perfect Yarborough, which fits in with my partner's cards, than a glittering hand which is a wholly deceptive one. Therefore "all that glitters is not gold" said the monk but then, that's another story.

A bridge fan to another :— But I should think that the yard stick of 8 honour-tricks (of Culbertson) should be revised.

The other :— Why ?

The former :— Because I invariably find that when two expert players partner each other, they count half an honour-trick for their own superiority and also one honour-trick for the inferiority of the opponents, and ultimately it works out all right.

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PRO et CONTRA

★ *Edited by*

P. S. Sundaresan

of the American Bridge world how any such player can be deterred and it was "Dont play with him"

Question: These two hands came along in a recent team of four duplicate match at our club, and in both cases, neither side bid the slam, a cold seven in the first hand and a small slam in the other. Curiously enough three no trumps was the final contract at both the tables for both the deals. The bidding was.

North	South
1 ♡	2 ♣
2 N. T.	3 N. T.

Personally I felt that South was to blame on both the hands and I shall be interested to have your views:

Deal 1

North dealer, neither side vulnerable.

North	South
♠ A K x	♠ x x
♡ K Q x x	♡ A J x
◇ K x x x	◇ A x
♣ A K	♣ Q x x x x

Deal 2

West dealer, Both sides vulnerable

Question: Please elucidate the rule as to revoke when the player who revokes is benefited to a much greater extent than the trick he forfeits by way of penalty. For example there may be a long establishable suit with just one possible entry-card namely a Queen in dummy. The defending player having a King, for instance, may revoke on the second round after the Ace is played, and thus prevent as many as four or five tricks being taken in the dummy.

Answer: In the case referred to, the declarer is entitled to, and can ask the player who does not follow suit, if he has no card in that suit. When such a query is put, the player who revokes is bound to follow suit. When, through inadvertence, the declarer does not ask, he is only entitled to two tricks for the revoke and cannot subsequently insist on the quitted trick being replayed.

It is of course possible for an unscrupulous player to take advantage of the lacuna in the rules, to revoke deliberately so as to gain an undue advantage. The advice was given by Mrs. Culbertson in one of the issues

North	South
♠ A J x	♠ K x x
♥ A K x x	♥ Q x x
♦ 10 x x x	♦ x
♣ Q x	♣ A K J 10 x x

Answer: Let us take the deals in order. The bidding in the first deal should have gone

North	South
1 ♥	2 ♣
3 ♦	4 ♣
4 N. T.	5 N. T.
7 ♣	

The actual rebid of two no trumps by North was a gross underbid. We are unable to understand how any average player would have failed to realise the need for forcing to game by a jump in another suit. The only problem for North in view of South's encouraging bid of two clubs was whether the hand was to be played in a small or a grand slam. A forcing bid of three diamonds was in order and South in his turn having sufficient values to pass the three no trump level should have given the encouraging response of four clubs. Four no trumps would evoke the response of five no trumps and North seeing at least seven tricks in the non-trump suits should bid Seven clubs or Seven no trumps assuming the solidity of the club suit bid and rebid by South. In

the actual hand the grand slam is dependent on a club break but it is a risk which ought to have been taken.

With regard to the second deal the bidding was correct up to two no trumps.

South's bidding should thereafter have been three hearts. It is perhaps not so widely known that in the sequence, 1 ♥ - 2 ♣ - 1 2 N. T., the last bid denotes a strong hand inviting the partner to game if the latter is of the view that a game is probable. The two no trump bid does not negative a five Card or strong rebiddable Heart suit in the opener's hand. It merely shows that the opening bidder thought it more important to reveal the strength of his hand rather than his distribution.

The responder should, therefore, according to modern theory, support Hearts with any three cards in the suit. This is, of course, done on the assumption that the opener might have a five card heart suit. The opener must understand the support to mean a reference to him to decide between three no trumps and four hearts, according as he has a four card or a strong five card heart suit.

After the bid of three hearts, the opener should have bid three

no trumps. What, thereafter, should South have done? His hand, in its own right, has a powerful opening bid. He must therefore make a mild Slam invitation, by bidding four clubs. Here it is important to note that if, instead of having Q x x in Hearts he had merely Q x, South's proper response to two no trumps should have been four clubs and the present position has in no way affected this obligation. North's natural response would be five clubs.

At this stage, we would hardly envy South who has a very difficult decision to make, whether to drop the bidding or take the chance of six clubs. Though in rubber bridge there might be occasions when we would bid the slam, it is probably better in duplicate to stop at the lower contract, on the supposition that our opponents at the other table may not have bid the Slam.

Question: I am giving below the sequence of bidding in a hand that cropped up in a rubber bridge game played at our club.

♠	K 10 6 4 3 2
♥	9
♦	A 8 6
♣	K 6 3

— North

— South

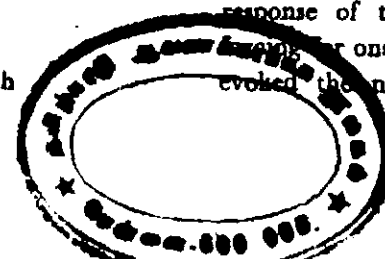
♠	—
♥	K 10 8 6 3
♦	K J 10 2
♣	A 5 4 2

Both sides were vulnerable and the bidding was as follows:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	—	2 ♥	—
2 ♠	—	2 N. T.	—
3 ♠	—	3 N. T.	Dble
4 ♠	—	—	Dble
—	—	—	—

The result, I need hardly say, was far from pleasant. We were mulcted to the tune off 1100 points. I would like to have your opinion of the bidding. Personally I am inclined to think that North did not have an opening hand and if he had passed originally, the catastrophe that ensued might have been avoided.

Answer: We entirely disagree and hold South guilty. The North hand though meagre in honour tricks, has an opening bid according to modern standards, which permit of the opening of a Six-card major suit, provided the hand as a whole counts to 2 + honor tricks and for this purpose a singleton can be counted as a + value. South's response of two hearts being evoked for one round, naturally evoked the not very promising



response of two Spades.

A void in the partner's suit is a danger signal which South, even had his hand been stronger than it was, should have heeded by passing. Even if he had felt tempted to improve the contract two no trumps was the last bid he should have made. A stab at three of either minor suit would have been quickly passed by the opener.

Well, South did bid two no trumps and his poor partner bids three spades—an unmis-

takable sign off. South would still persist in his folly and call three no trumps. He deserved all that he got.

We would like to state in this connection, that in the case of an obvious misfit, it is far better to stop at the lowest possible level rather than continue on slight additional values. On the other hand, in the case of a good fit, there will not be any harm—often, there will be much profit—in stretching our hand slightly more than warranted by the joint honor tricks.

Problems in Play

By S. RAJAM IYER

(1)

South has reached a very ambitious Contract of Seven Hearts. His hand and the dummy's are as detailed below:

(N)

♠	Q	10	9
♥	x	x	x
♦	A	K	x x
♣	x	x	x

(S)

♠	—	—	—	—
♥	A	K	Q	J 10 9
♦	Q	J	x	x
♣	A	Q	x	x

West leads Spade five. North follows with spade nine and East overtakes with spade King. Now how would you, South, plan your play to make your contract. Do you see any possibility of bringing it home for any or more distribution of the adverse cards.

If you think that the Contract cannot be made, whatever may be the distribution of the adverse cards, please wait and read below.

It is evident that East has also the Ace of Spades. Obviously

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West would not have underled with the Ace in his hand. Therefore if East has the Ace of Spades and a five card suit in Clubs, the Contract is a cinch.

After ruffing the first round of Spades run all the Hearts. Play all the four diamonds taking care, however, to end in the dummy. When the last diamond is played, the following end position will result.

♠	Q			
♥	—			
♦	A			
♣	x x	♠	A	
		♥	—	
		♦	—	
		♣	K x x	
♠	—			
♥	—			
♦	x			
♣	A Q x			

At this stage East will be forced either to discard his Ace of Spades or part with one of his clubs. In any case, all the tricks will be gathered by the declarer.

(2)

South has reached a Contract of Seven Spades with the following lay of cards and supported with the following hand of his partner.

North

♠	7	5	4	2
♥	A	5	4	
♦	A	K	6	5
♣	4	3		

South

♠	A	K	Q	J	10	9
♥	Q	3				
♦	Q	4	3			
♣	A	K				

West leads the Diamond Jack. There is obviously no difficulty if Diamonds breaks 3-3. If they do not, *prima facie*, the contract will be one down.

Do you think it worthwhile to play the hand out in the expectation of making it whatever be the distribution, or, do you in the interest of saving time, wish to lay down your hand, acknowledging one trick down if the Diamonds do not break.

The following analysis will show you how it is not impossible to keep the contract even against the adverse distribution. The contract can be fulfilled if the hand that holds the four diamonds also holds the King of Hearts.

Assuming that the cards lie as we wish, let us proceed to consider how the play is to be managed. Take the Diamond Queen in the closed hand, run four rounds of trumps, play to the Heart Ace, run the clubs and the balance of Spades (playing the Heart Ace is vital, for if you do not, you will find it difficult

to discard in the later play of the trumps). When the last trump is played the following position will result.

South holds Heart Queen and two diamonds. North holds three Diamonds headed by the Ace and King having discarded two Hearts on the fifth and sixth round of Spades. If by then, the Heart King be not discarded, you play out Diamonds in the hope that it will break even, either because its original distribution was 4-3-3-3 or the hand that originally held four diamonds has discarded one of them.

PROBLEM (3)

South has reached a contract of six diamonds. Below is his hand and partner's

♠	J				
♥	A	K	9	5	4
♦	Q	8	6	4	
♣	9	4	3		
	N				
	S				
♠	9	5	3		
♥	10				
♦	A	K	10	9	3
♣	A	7	6		

West opens with the club king. How and for what distribution can you annex twelve tricks?

Certain conditions must be fulfilled if success is to be achieved.

After the opening club lead there are two losers in that suit and one in spade. Of the three losers, one can be accounted for by the top honour in hearts. One more loser has to be saved. That could be done possibly on the fifth heart, if hearts break 4 and 3 with the defenders. Since the contract is otherwise unmakeable we shall assume that the hearts do so break.

Even then there is a tough problem. Apart from the lead into the dummy through the heart Ace you need two more entries to make good the fifth heart—one to establish it and the other to cash it. As it is, there is only one obvious entry namely the diamond Queen. There is, however, another potential entry in diamond eight. This is not an automatic entry but dependent upon the location of the three remaining diamonds. There are six possible divisions of the remaining diamonds. West may have.

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| (1) J x x | (4) x x |
| (2) J x | (5) x |
| (3) J | (6) Void |

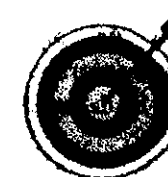
Type 1 spells disaster because three rounds of trumps have to be drawn leaving only one more in the dummy. But you need two trumps after exhausting the

adverse trumps to ruff two spades. Type 6 is also obviously hopeless. Type 5 will not help us since Jx is on the wrong side and you have to enter dummy twice through trumps—first to establish the fifth heart and secondly to play the established heart for the purpose of discarding your last club. Type 3

gives no headache since the jack falls on the first round, when you enter the hand with Queen. Only a hunch must decide between Types 2 and 4, whether you play the queen anticipating the fall of the lone jack or make a brilliant finesse of the diamond eight placing the cards as in type 2.

Problems for October -

December 1948



(A) Your partner opens the bidding with one Diamond. You naturally respond with one Spade. Your partner bids Two Spades. Your hand is:—

♠ K Q J x ♥ 9 5 2 ♦ Q J
♣ K 9 4 3

What do you bid?

(B) Your partner, dealer, bids one Diamond. You bid two Clubs. Your partner bids three Clubs. You hold:—

♠ A 9 7 ♥ 10 8 ♦ K 9 4
♣ K 9 7 3 2

What do you bid?

(C) Your partner opens the bidding with two Spades. You hold:—

♠ - ♥ J x x x x x ♦ Q x x x x
♣ x x :—

What do you bid?

(D) The bidding has proceeded:—

North	East	South	West
3 ♥	4 ♣	Pass	!

You, West hold:—

♠ x x x ♥ x x x x x ♦ K J x x
♣ A x

What do you bid?

(E) Your partner, North, opens the bidding with one Heart, East passes and you hold:—

♠ Q x ♥ A J x x x ♦ J x x
♣ A x x

What do you bid?

(F) You are the dealer and hold :—

♠ K J x x ♥ K J x x ♦ x x

♣ A Q x

What do you bid !

(G) You, the dealer, open with one Diamond. The next hand passes and your partner responds one Heart. The next hand passes. You hold :—

♠ A x x ♥ x x ♦ A 10 x x x

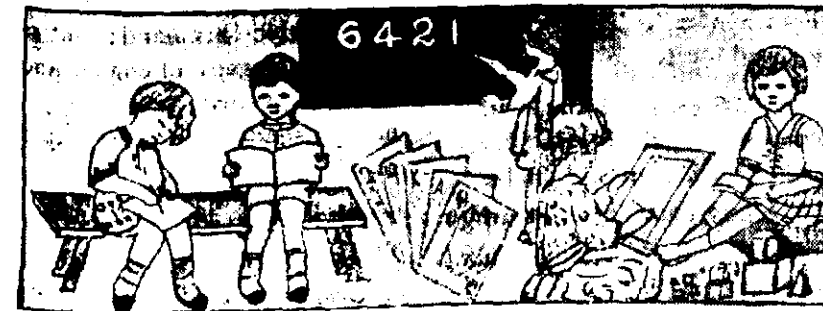
♣ A K Q

What do you bid ?

(H) As against three no trumps contract by you, (South) West leads spade three. You

hold A Q x and your partner, 10, 9. East plays the Jack—What will you play and why ?

N. B. The answers will appear in the next issue. It is hoped to run this department on competitive lines, with prizes for those who score the largest numbers of points every year. All those who wish to compete will send in their entries in sealed covers so as to reach the problems Editor, Sri S. Rajam Iyer, B. A. B.L., Advocate, Tirupur, Coimbatore Dt. before the 28th February 1949.



TODDLERS CORNER

A Hand & a Life

By F. D. C. Dhanbhoora, B. A.

Mandu Manikkam : Look here, our revered guru, I do not want to read, write or play Bridge any longer. I will hang and quarter this Ketti-kara ; he says that I am a baby and a booby.

Guru : Peace, my boy, peace. Do not get so excited. Bridge is only a game and not a serious business. Well, what's the matter ?

Kettikara Krishnan : This Mandu is an idiot. He does not know even the A.B.C. of contract, and yet he thinks himself a Culbertson or a Crane !

Guru : Do you know my dear boys, once a wife murdered her husband following a bitter quarrel over the bidding and play of this hand :—

♠ A 10 6 3
♥ 10 8 5
♦ 4
♣ A 9 8 4 2

♠ Q 7 2	N	♠ 4
♥ A J 3	W	♥ Q 9 7
♦ A Q 10 9 2	E	♦ K J 7 6 3
♣ J 6	S	♣ Q 7 5 3

♠ K J 9 8 5
♥ K 6 4 2
♦ 8 5
♣ K 10

Somberi Suppan : A wife killing a husband ? It must be outside India. What a fatal hand ! A hand of 13 cards and a hand that kills an innocent man !

Guru : Yes, it happened in America. "I bid one spade" South said, as he sorted his hand. West bid two diamonds and the

lady sitting North jumped to "Four Spades". The contracting ended there.

Somberi Suppan: I think the lady overvalued her holding. She had only two Aces and not even a Jack to boot! But why on earth should she murder her husband?

Guru: You are quite right, sweet Somberi; she was not justified in either what she bid or what she did.

Mandu Manikkam: But I do not understand how and why a woman should kill a man for that.

Kettikara Krishnan: That's because you are a Mandu (a moron).

Guru: Anyway, when the lady was tried for her husband's murder, the Judge and Jury freed her.

All Toddlers: What! and why?

Guru: First in the bidding, South's hand did not justify an opening bid. A hand must contain at least two and a half honour tricks for a sound opening bid. South had not even two. The court, therefore, took a liberal view of North's optimistic raise of one Spade to four. It is called by Culbertson "the immediate optional raise."

Kettikara Krishnan: South had overbid his hand; but so kind are the gods of chance and distribution that South might have made the contract, and saved his life, had he played his cards a little better than our own Mandu.

Guru: Kettikara is right when he says that South might have made four spades, had he planned his play from the very start. But he failed in that either. So the Judge and the Jury decided that he deserved his fate.

All Toddlers: Yes, we do remember, you always tell us to plan the play.

Guru: Yes, there is a system in playing a bridge hand, as much as in wooing a girl. West opened the Diamond Ace. Then when he saw North's Singleton in Diamonds, he led the Club Jack. This was won with the Club King. South merely flirted with his wife's hand (and death) and, without any plan of play, started pulling out all the trumps in the opponent's hands.

Somberi Suppan: But you have told us that "Disarming the opponents is the first principle of Bridge".

Guru: It is so, but not always my dear. The proper play would

be to draw merely two trumps, after ruffing the last Diamond and thus eliminating the Diamond suit in the closed hand also. Now South should lead the Club 10 to the Ace in the dummy. Then on a lead of the nine or eight, East would probably put up the Queen. South's troubles are now over. He may trump, to be overtrumped by west. Whatever West led afterwards, the Contract and a life would be saved. What "says" you all?

Kettikara Krishnan: Well, an Indian wife would have said "Dearest Lord of my love and life, I am sorry, I overvalued my intelligence (holding). But your brilliance makes up for all my short-comings".

Mandu Manikkam: Is it not strange that a wife should kill her husband merely for some mistake in Bridge?

Guru: That, my boy, is what takes place in the most civilised country in the world, the United States of America. Well here is a poser for you. In a night club in Chicago, in the height of prohibition there, a man held "A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2" in Spades. He contracted to make 7 Spades. But he didn't make it? Why didn't he?

Mandu Manikkam: Probably he forgot to ruff the 1st lead.

Guru: But, my dear boy, what does it matter whether he remembered to ruff or not. Even if he wanted to discard a card, it would have won the trick.

Somberi Suppan: We give up. Do tell us.

Kettikara Krishnan: Probably they made him drink and took his cards and dealt again.

Guru: Well, the idea is there. The man didn't make it, since he was shot dead on the ground that he was a cheat.

Somberi Suppan: These stories are certainly more interesting than our lessons. And why is it that these Bridge stories are all of America. Don't we have Indian Stories?

Guru: Well, here is an Indian Story. Once four men of Hindustan were playing a four-some at Bridge. Strange to say all the four philosophers were deaf. Now North dealt the hand and bid Two no-trump. His partner, South (out of turn, of course) said "Two Spades". Then West cried "One club". East, under the impression that all had passed, threw down his hand, spread his 13 cards on the table and laughed aloud. "My hand is a yarborough. Ha!

Ha! The opponents have lost a game or a slam by not bidding at all". Assuming that there was a mis-deal, all the others also started laughing. The Kibitzers (their wives, also deaf) joined in the chorus of "We wise men of Hindustan!"

All Toddlers: Oh how funny! Tell us some more.

Guru: Once a wife received a phone message:—

"Your husband has engaged three nurses".

The dutiful wife ran up to the hospital and enquired about the case. The husband, hale and hearty coolly said:—

"Darling, don't be nervous, I am O.K."

The wife asked him the reason for his engaging three nurses. The husband replied "To make a table of four to play 'Duplicate'. You will find Miss Jones is attended by three doctors in the next room".

All Toddlers: Once our school Inspector asked us "Is there any star shining as brightly as the sun?". "Culbertson", we all replied, in one voice. What do you say to that?

Guru: You bad boys! Do you want to grow up and be like Sydney Lenz, Von Zedtwitz, Harold Vanderbilt, Howard

Schenken and those other horrid men. Do You?".

All Toddlers: No, our guru, we will be good.

Kettikara Krishnan: But before, we close, will you tell us, Guruji, why there is so much of post-mortem and so much of bitter disputes in this game?

Guru: That is probably easy to explain. Fortunately or unfortunately, this is the one game, where the level of the player cannot be easily standardised, with the result that there is room for every player to consider himself as good as any other. Take, for instance, Group Games. A poor player will hardly be taken into a Hockey or a Foot-ball or a Cricket team to represent any institution or club or even a scratch side. Unless he is good enough, he would probably be thrown out of even ordinary practice games. So he knows his level in the game and cannot and will not, venture to dispute the opinions and views of a recognised player. That is even more definitely the case in respect of individual games. A Tennis player need only be beaten by a superior player a few times over to bow to the

views of his victor, so far as Tennis is concerned. Or, take again, Golf. A golf player is soon fixed in some position or other, either as a five handicap player or a ten handicap player or a fifteen handicap player. Every player knows his handicap and what it means. A ten handicap player knows his position in the Golf World and would not dream of playing a round with a scratch player on level terms. But nothing like it can be done in Bridge. The fifteen handicap Bridge player usually considers himself to be a plus 2 player and thinks that there is nothing more about the game for him to learn. When the play of a hand is finished, he will, with the air and manner of a Darwin examining an old Master, review the play and point out how his partner could

have defeated the contract by some kind of play, which would probably involve the use of a divining rod. He would be quite oblivious of the fact that with a bit of horse sense, and with no divining instruments, he himself could have easily set the contract. Since there is always a partner, on whom all the onus of a bad contract or a bad defence can be laid; the poor player can always hold his head high. It is impossible to put him in his proper place. He will always cut into a rubber, whether he is wanted or not. And so this handicap of post-mortems and disputes, wherein the most puerile arguments are put forward by the most ignorant players, will probably continue to handicap this otherwise fascinating game.

News And Notes

The War Years

THE second World War with its harnessing of the forces in the country, either for the war-effort or for the political struggle for independence, had its inevitable repercussions on the South Indian Bridge Association and on the Indian Bridge World.

The privations of war, the soaring prices of Bridge accessories and the increased difficulties of transport forced the S.I.B.A. reluctantly to "shorten its lines of communication." Thus, no championship tournaments could be conducted by the S.I.B.A. in 1942. It must be recorded, however, to the credit of the S.I.B.A. that they cut their coat wisely according to the cloth at their disposal and gave maximum encouragement to the tournament authorities in the city and in the Districts to run their tournaments, more or less, on a provincial basis. Thus the Christmas tournaments of the Madras United Club filled the gap in 1942.

That such tournaments were conducted in 1942 and the later war years, at times, when Malaya and Burma were overrun by the Japanese and the

Brahmaputra appeared to be our last line of defence, and when eyes were anxiously scanning the sky for Zero Fighters, bears eloquent testimony not only to the 'sang froid' of the Bridge votaries but also to the fighting qualities of this game called Bridge. This war has proved that wars can be won not only on the playing fields but also, perhaps, at the Bridge tables!

The year 1943 reflected the change in the tide of war and the hopes that were springing anew. The strains of "Lily Marlene" and the heroism of Wingate and his Merry-men found an echo in the tournaments conducted in the Province. Not only did Tiruppur and Coimbatore hold tournaments but also the Triplicane Club in the City. The S. I. B. A. took advantage of the wave of enthusiasm by itself holding a tournament.

The new lease of energy generated by stirring events abroad carried us well into 1944, when, apart from the S.I.B.A. Championship tournaments, five other tournaments were conducted in all, namely at Tiruppur, at Coimbatore and by three leading clubs in the City.

DECEMBER, 1948

How closely the Bridge activities in the Province followed the changing fortunes of war is revealed by the year 1945. The flashing brilliance of Rommel and his "Africa Korps" and the delay in the starting of the "Second Front" perhaps damped the ardour of the Bridge players. The Mambalam Club alone provided the facilities for a major tournament in the City and thereby kept at least the Bridge front going.

By 1946, Bridge had, more or less, got into its stride again. Coimbatore, as usual, gave the lead, which was quickly followed by the South India Vysia Association and the Mambalam Club in the City. The S. I. B. A. Championships completed the card for the year.

The Aftermath

THE "V.E." & "V.J." Days had come and gone but the aftermath of the war, like the poor, was with us. The prices remained high, card accessories were scarce and transport was a problem. But thanks to the buoyancy and the resilience of the S. I. B. A. and its members, a General Body Meeting was held at Coimbatore on 1st May 1946 and Sri C. Devarajan took over the Honorary Secretaryship

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of the Association from Sri K. R. Sundram. In addition to the S. I. B. A. Championship tournaments held at Madras during Christmas, as of old, many of the major clubs in the City and in the Districts celebrated the fruits of victory by running tournaments.

The Association

WITH the general elections of 1947 it can be said that the S.I.B.A. had come back into its own. Sri T. V. Subramania Iyer, the newly elected Honorary Secretary, brings his unbounded enthusiasm to the Association. Many of the experienced members of the "Old Brigade" are serving in the Council and in the ad-hoc Committees. And in Mr. A. M. R. Davidar, our new President, we have not only a founder-member at the helm but one whose name is synonymous with initiative and drive in Bridge Circles.

The Magazine

WHILE the spirit of Bridge had been kept alive by sanctioning and conducting tournaments, it was not found possible to run the Magazine through the war years. It has to be recorded with regret that Vol. 3, Part 1, dated Feb. '43, has been the last issue to be

published.

But a new and energetic Editorial Committee has been formed and preparations are well under weigh for bringing out the first revived issue since the war, even during this quarter. It has been decided to make the "Indian Bridge World" even more attractive than before. New and attractive moulds have been prepared for the section headings. First-rate printers in the City have been engaged and the issue is brought out in quality paper.

In consonance with the spirit of revival, two new features have been introduced in the Magazine. One is the starting of the "*Pro et contra*" section, which, it is felt, will not only be appreciated by the readers but will also be fully utilised by the Bridge playing public of the Province. For, after all, how can there be progress without healthy discussion and what better method for imparting instruction can be thought of than the "Dialectic" handed to us by no less a person than Socrates?

The other new feature which we propose to introduce from the next issue is a series of articles on the laws, etiquette and the proprieties of the game. Contract

Bridge, as it is played to-day on the duplicate system with match point scoring, is a far cry from the old Auction days. Bidding technique and the play in attack and in defence have made such tremendous strides that it is imperatively necessary now, than ever before, for a strict observance of the laws of the game. Surveying the recent tournaments conducted, the frequent occasions on which irregularities have occurred and have had to be corrected by tournament authorities, stresses the urgent need for focussing the attention Bridge of players on this very necessary and important aspect of the game. It is no doubt true that the infringements have invariably been traced to a *bona fide* mistake, committed either under the stress of excitement or owing to misplaced enthusiasm. But such occurrences, besides inflicting neutral scores on innocent third parties, makes the work of the tournament authorities more onerous and incidentally robs the tournaments of their legitimate enjoyment. It is, therefore, the desire of the Editorial Committee to invite and include in each issue, for some time to come, at least one article bearing on the laws of the game.

The cover of this issue of the

Magazine is not only a new design but is really a product of evolution. The older members will remember the debt of gratitude which the Association owes to the Deccan Bridge League, who were the pioneers of Contract Bridge in South India. Ever since those early days, it has been the aim of every Editorial Committee to select a suitable cover design, which, while being simple, will harmonise within itself the subject dealt with in the Magazine and the territory the Association Controls. The Deccan Bridge League solved this problem by depicting a bridge running across the Deccan with the district centres symbolised by the suits in a deck.

When the Deccan Bridge League amalgamated with the organisation in the City, the present South Indian Bridge Association was born. To bring the Magazine into line with the larger status then acquired and inspired perhaps by the leading Magazine of America, the official organ of the S.I.B.A. became the Indian Bridge World. Till Feb. '43, the old block was retained to preserve the continuity in the conduct of the Magazine. Now that there is a renaissance in Bridge in India, the editorial Committee have thought

it opportune to introduce a new cover design, which emphasises pictorially the three important words in the title, namely 'India', 'Bridge' and the 'World.'

Whether looked at from the point of view of its get-up or of its contents and educative value, and even at the risk of this being thought propaganda it must be written that this Magazine is a good thing and deserves every encouragement.

Our Membership

OWING to the war and the non-issue of the Magazine for the last five years, the Association has unfortunately lost touch with quite a number of its members. Side by side with the revival of the Magazine, the Council will launch a membership campaign. As the Magazine has always been a happy link between the Association and its members, it is hoped that all our readers will take part in this membership drive and enlist as many members as they can and thereby strengthen the Association.

Tournament News

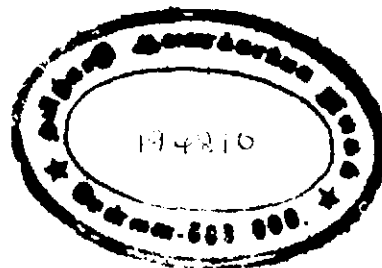
AN attempt has been made in this issue to survey the tournaments held during the war years rapidly and in a general

way. Now that the Magazine has been revived, with 'News and Notes' as a regular feature, it will be possible to cover tournaments in greater detail. To facilitate the inclusion of news regarding tournaments, the various tournament authorities are requested to forward a report of

their respective tournaments, in good time to the Editor.

The address of the Editor for all communications will be:—

The Editor,
The "Indian Bridge World,"
13/14, Broadway,
Madras-1



Date.....

From

Name
and
Address }

(PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY)

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